

From: Alan Mortensen
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

There are many that know the law and government proceedings more than I, so I will refrain from commenting on them directly. What I experienced is the damage that Microsoft has done first hand. I've been a Java developer and Macintosh user for many years now and the actions I have witnessed are a travesty. They cast a shadow over the entire industry where the executives always ask, what will Microsoft do? Will they care enough to take us out or buy us? What I value as a developer is innovation and Microsoft has done everything in it's power to crush innovation in other companies and therefore in the industry as a whole. They have exhibited not only incidents of monopoly behavior but a consistent and pervasive pattern of abuse of power.

On the subject of the decision, I don't see how this decision will change any of their techniques and it will take up considerable manpower to try to enforce. Trying to solve Microsoft via a bureaucracy is not a reasonable solution, there will always be too many vulnerabilities, either from loopholes or corruption. I'm no expert on punitive practices, but I do know a fair amount about business practices and I don't think this decision will slow them in the least. They will just adapt around it. They are a monopoly and they need to be handled specially for it. My primary suggestion is exposure (source code) and extreme fines. A break up sounds unlikely but I would prefer it, a horizontal break up, consisting of multiple OS/Office/Database/etc. vendors that could compete.

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